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The Montana Masquers

Present

"THE BARRETTS OF WIMPOLE STREET"

A Comedy in Three Acts

By

RUDOLF BESIER

Student Union Stage
Montana State University

May 13, 14 and 15
Curtain at 8:15

"The Barretts of Wimpole Street"

A Comedy in Three Acts

By

RUDOLF BESIER

(Presented by Special Arrangement with the Dramatists Play
Service, New York City)

THE CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Doctor Chambers | Charles Gray |
| Elizabeth Barrett Moulton-Barrett | Marilyn Neils |
| Wilson | Mary Lueck |
| Henrietta Moulton-Barrett | Ashby Warden |
| Arabel Moulton-Barrett | Loretta Noislanen |
| Octavius Moulton-Barrett | Doug Walker |
| Septimus Moulton-Barrett | Robert Moran |
| Alfred Moulton-Barrett | Joe Heimes |
| Charles Moulton-Barrett | J. A. Opp |
| Henry Moulton-Barrett | Jack Unfred |
| George Moulton-Barrett | Frank Kerr |
| Edward Moulton-Barrett | Tom Roberts |
| Bella Hedley | Margie Howard |
| Henry Bevan | Howard Gronfeld |
| Robert Browning | Bo Brown |
| Doctor Ford-Waterlow | Francis Fitzpatrick |
| Captain Surtees-Cook | Robert Hamilton |
| Flush | Flower |

Scene: The bed-sitting room of Elizabeth Barrett at
50 Wimpole Street, in London, in 1845.

Act I

Scene 1: The evening of the 19th of May.

Scene 2: The afternoon of the following day.
(Intermission—10 minutes)

Act II

Three months later.

(Intermission—7 minutes)

Act III

Scene 1: Some weeks later.

Scene 2: The following week.

(During Scene 2 the lights will be lowered to denote the
passing of a few hours.)

Staged by Ronald-Bel Stiffler

Art and Technical Director, Murrell Pannett

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Assistant to Director | Margaret Duncan |
| Stage Manager | Kenneth Moore |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Helen MacDonald |
| Scene Designer | John C. Stevens |
| Lighting | John Thurman |
| Costumes | Naida La Bart, Roxie Milburn |
| Properties | Joyce Minto |
| Make-up | Jack Weston |
| House Manager | Anne Fraser |

PRODUCTION CREWS

Scenery: John C. Stevens, Fred Lerch, Kenneth Moore, Roxie Milburn, Jo Joyce Phillip.

Lighting: Joan Carroll, Allen Lewis.

Make-up: Mary Hughes, Babs York, Elaine Palagi, Laura Bergh, Audrey Torgeson, Jim Des Rosier, Roxie Milburn, Richard Alley.

Costumes: Phyllis Conover, Cornelia Shuder, Margaret Duncan, Elaine Palagi.

Properties: Jo Ann Robinson, Margot Luebben, Doris Lund, Eva Johnson, Marian Kolppa, Mary Lueck.

Music on the organ by Ross W. Farabough.



A NOTE ON THE PLAY

"The Barretts of Wimpole Street" was first produced, in the United States, by Katherine Cornell in Cleveland, Ohio, on January 29, 1931, and presented by her at the Empire Theatre, New York City, on February 9, 1931, under the direction of Guthrie McClintic.

Katherine Cornell played the role of Elizabeth, Brian Ahearne acted Robert Browning, and Charles Waldron played Edward Moulton-Barrett.

Mark Van Doren wrote in his review of the play which appeared in the February 25, 1931, "The Nation": "The piece is interesting and clear; its theme is familiar enough not to strain the capacity of any reasonably well-educated audience to understand it; and it is acted in the best taste throughout."

"Miss Cornell as the ailing Elizabeth played with a restraint for which one felt like thanking her, line by line. Confined to her couch

at first, then electrified into life by the breeze of Browning blowing through her door, and at last transformed by him into a woman with will enough to run away from her father—Miss Cornell in all of these phases was utterly right. She has never appeared to better advantage."

"The elder Barrett is here, as apparently he was in life, one of those Victorian fathers which our latter-day literature has talked so much about. We were prepared for him by "The Way of All Flesh," to name only one of hundreds of books by hundreds of enlightened authors. A dash of psychology also is necessary to understand him; but we have that, of course. My point is that we possess in Mr. Besler's Mr. Barrett a perfect specimen of the monster in question; no less than that, and no more. The resolution of this widower not to permit any of his numerous children to marry is explained by showing that he is a hideously repressed person. That is probably a good explanation."

SOMETHING ABOUT THE CAST

For the most part the actors of "The Barretts" are making their initial appearance on this campus in a university production. Marilyn Neils played in "The Maker of Dreams" at Libby. . . . Bo Brown was to appear as Lucianus in "Hamlet" but illness prevented. . . . Tom Roberts has played in Missoula High School productions. . . . Frank Kerr played a bit part in "The Man Who Came to Dinner." . . . Loretta Nolsanen was seen in "Winthrop House" and "Seven Sisters" at Missoula High. . . . Doug Walker played Bernardo in "Hamlet." . . . Joe Helmes was a Thespian at Butte. . . . J. A. Opp played in "Three Cornered Moon" at Helena and "Charley's Aunt" at Great Falls. . . . Bob Moran played Septimius one performance of Katherine Cornell's "Barretts" in Germany when she was on tour of army posts overseas. . . . Mary Lueck was a Thespian at Thompson Falls. . . . Francis Fitzpatrick played Polonius in "Hamlet." . . . Ashby Warden played minor roles in "The Man Who Came to Dinner" and "Hamlet." . . . Bob Hamilton played Guildenstern in "Hamlet." . . . Jack Unfred and Margie Howard played in Missoula High productions. . . . Howard Gronfein was a Thespian.

CONCERNING THE SETTING

A partial, suggestive stage setting known as minimum scenery, is being used for this production to indicate to the many high schools attending the drama festival during track meet week the use of economical and simple scenery.

MONTANA MASQUERS PRODUCTIONS

During 1945-1947, the Montana Masquers have presented "Angel Street," "Blithe Spirit," "The Firefly," "Squaring the Circle," "The Cradle Song," "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "Hamlet," "Right You Are" and "The Barretts of Wimpole Street."